

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 15 FOCUSES ON

GREECE-NATO RELATIONS AND SYG LUNS: OPPOSITION

LEADERS ALSO COMMENT

REF: ATHENS 7040

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1. THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 15 WHICH AIRMED AT PRESENTING A CLEAR OFFICIAL LINE REGARDING SEVERAL THEMES RECEIVING PROMINENT PRESS PLAY RECENTLY, E.G. GREEK-NATO RELATIONS, SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' VISIT TO THE U.S. AND THE PURPORTED INITIATIVE OF THE EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS IN CONNECTION WITH CYPRUS. (THE LATTER IS BEING COVERED BY SEPTTEL.)

2. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF RECENT ACTIVE PRESS COMMENTARY BOTH AS TO SYG LUNS' RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THE UPCOMING GREEK-NATO NEGOTIATIONS, THE GOG UNDOUBTEDLY SAW AN OPPURTUNITY TO PLACE THESE ISSUES IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE. REGARDING THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE STATMENT NOTED THEY WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 17 (PRESS HAD ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED SEPT. 15) AND FURTHER ADDED THAT "NATO HAS NOT RAISED THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION" (I.E. AS RELATED TO INFRRASTRUCTURE AND CERTAIN NATO-RELATED INSTALLATIONS)" AND IT IS STRANGE THAT GREEKS SHOULD TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT NATO WILL DO SO." REGARDING NATO'S STANCE VIS-A-VIS CYPRUS, THE STATEMENT SAID THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL HAD PREVIOUSLY DECLARED ITSELF "INCOMPETENT TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE" AND SINCE THEN HAS TAKEN NO STAND ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION.

3. RELEVANT TO SYG LUNS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO A PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) WHICH POINTED OUT THAT LUNS WENT TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT FURTHER NOTED THAT THE GOG HAD CONVEYED ITS DISPLEASURE TO LUNS ON THIS MATTER "BECAUSE HE INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE ISSUE OF AMERICAN ARMS--A QUESTION WHICH THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES HAVE DESCRIBED AS AN INTERNAL MATTER."

4. TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE GOG STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 13, CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES LEADER MAVROS HAD COMMENTED ON LUNS' VISIT SAYING HIS INITIATIVE COULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACT OF HIS PRIOR REFUSAL IN AUGUST 1974 TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL--EVEN IN THE FACE OF THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SECOND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE FACT THAT LUNS NOW IS ACTING IN BEHALF OF AN ALLIANCE MEMBER WHICH HAD LODGED AN ATTACK ON CYPRUS, AN ATTACK WHOCH HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDEMNED BY BOTH THE UNGA AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL, "POSES A PROBLEM CONCERNING HIS REMAINING AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION." MAVROS CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT GREECE--EVEN THOUGH WITHDRAWING FROM NATO'S MILITARY ARM--STILL REMAINS AS A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE ALLIANCE AND THUS HAS THE RIGHT TO

CRITICIZE ACTIONS OF THE SYG.

5. PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU ON SEPTEMBER 13 ALSO COMMENTED
ON THE NATO ISSUE AND ASSERTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
CONTINUES TO MOCK THE GREEK PEOPLE THROUGH ITS TALK OF
DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM
NATO.
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